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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SPOT COMMENTARY



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IRAQ-KUHAIT: SITUATION REPORT \$556

Political Davelopments

Velayati's European Trip

Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati will visit Germany on 18 and 19 February for talks on the Gulf crisis, according to German press.

Comment: Velayati's trip to Germany will follow his visit to Italy scheduled for 14 February.

Economic Developments

Oil Slick May Not Threaten Saudi Electrical Power

The Vice President of Operations at the Saudi Consolidated Electric Companies (SCECO) does not believe the oil slick will seriously endanger electrical power supplies in Saudi Arabia,

He is satisfied SCECO has done everything it can to protect its facilities, although he admitted 100 percent protection is impossible. He pointed out that even if some facilities had to be shut down, enough excess generating capacity existed on the eastern seaboard and in the interior of Saudi Arabia to meet most current electricity demand. Cool winter temperatures mean that this demand is currently lower than capacity, which is built for the heavy air conditioning needs of the Saudi summer.

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